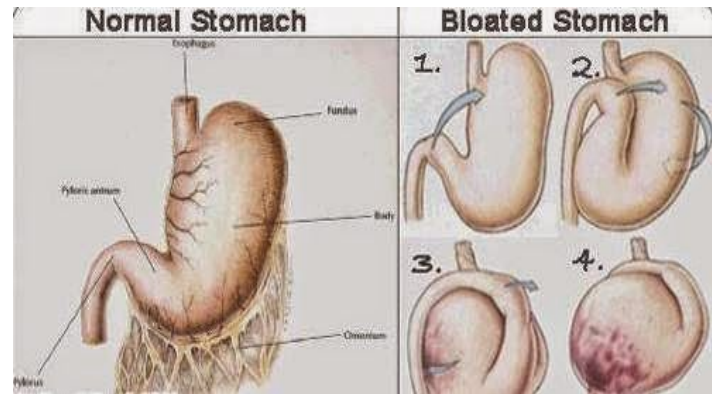


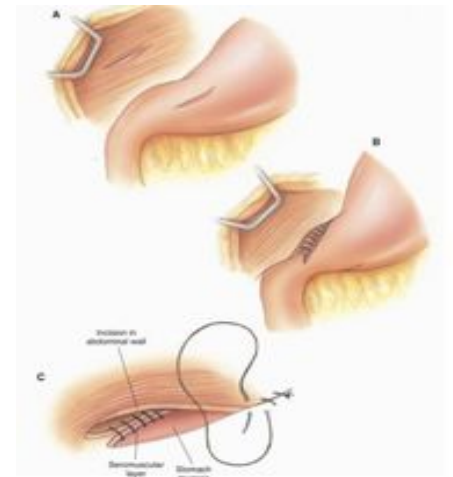
Canine Gastropexy

Canine gastropexy is a surgical procedure performed most commonly in large breed dogs to prevent gastric dilatation volvulus (GDV), commonly known as bloat. GDV is a life-threatening condition in which the stomach flips over and expands, trapping air and gases in the stomach. Circulation to the stomach and spleen is subsequently interrupted, resulting in shock which can be fatal.



In gastropexy, the stomach is tacked to the right side of the abdominal wall, so it cannot shift or twist. The procedure was initially just performed after a dog has had a GDV, but now is considered in large breed dogs as a surgical option to prevent GDV.

This procedure can be performed with the aid of laparoscopic surgery. Although the incisions with laparoscopic surgery are typically smaller, they do require 2-3 incisions. In comparison to the traditional incisional gastropexy, the laparoscopic incisions are only about 20% smaller when all incisions are added together. I prefer the traditional incisional gastropexy because of the decreased time under anaesthesia and increased field of view.



The preventative gastropexy is often combined with the spay or neuter around 5-6 months of age. Recovery for most dogs is similar to a spay. After surgery, the patient can conduct most normal activities, but needs to restrain from activities that include running or swimming for at least 2 weeks. Most patients do not appear to have any pain after surgery.

Gastropexy is an effective preventive against death from GDV in large dogs. In studies of dogs treated for GDV, of those with gastropexy, only 4.3% had a re-occurrence of GDV, compared to 54.5% of those dogs that did not have a gastropexy.

